

ACCESSIBILITY

Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) Accessibility Standards outlines Design Guidelines for use in all WUSM projects and discusses the principles of Universal Design that should be considered in WUSM projects.

ACCESSIBILITY UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The architect is responsible for advising owners on accessibility requirements on each project at the beginning of the design process. Review of ADA Compliance Strategies / Universal Design is required during the Final Review of the Project.

References:

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)

[American National Standards Institute \(ANSI\)](#)

[United States Access Board – ADA Accessibility Guidelines \(ADAAG\)](#)

[Community Health Environment Checklist – Mobility and Low Vision \(CHEC-M / CHEC-LV\)](#)

Standards References:

[CONVEYING – ELEVATORS](#)

[EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – AREA OF REFUGE \(FIRE & TORNADO\)](#)

[EQUIPMENT – KITCHEN APPLIANCES](#)

[FINISHES](#)

[LACTATION ROOMS](#)

[OPENINGS - ACCESS CONTROLS](#)

[SPECIALTIES - SIGNAGE](#)

[SPECIALTIES – TOILET ROOM ACCESSORIES](#)

ACCESSIBILITY

DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) considers compliance with the Accessibility sections of the Building Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to be a minimum level of design required for accessibility. Every practical effort shall be made by the A/E firms to improve on this minimum level of accessibility to facilitate barrier-free environments. All improvements above minimum level must be reviewed and approved by WUSM Project Manager.
2. Renovations to any primary function area may require that the path of travel to, and amenities serving, the altered area be made accessible in compliance with local building codes. Requirements for alterations are typically based on cost and scope of project renovations and should be reviewed with WUSM Project Manager at the start of each project.
3. Sloped walks shall be provided in lieu of ramps where feasible. Maximum slopes on a walk shall not exceed 1 in 20 (5 percent). Maximum slopes on a ramp shall not exceed 1 in 12 (8.2 percent).
4. It should be documented when a power assist door is required for accessibility purposes. Power operated doors shall be provided in clinics at primary exterior entrance(s) on an accessible route and at all entries to multi-stall accessible restrooms in clinic buildings. Occasionally power operated doors are requested for primary exterior entrances or multi-stall restrooms in other buildings for continuity of use and convenience. These locations shall be reviewed with WUSM Project Manager for approval. Operators on departmental entrance doors are by exception only. Actuators at power operated doors shall be motion sensor in lieu of push plate operator. See [ACCESS CONTROLS](#) for more information.
5. Double acting doors by exception only.
6. [The use of undercounter appliances is by exception only, and must be reviewed with WUSM Project Manager.](#)
7. [Base cabinets shall be 34-inches standard counter height with or without sink area. If undercounter appliances are approved on project, raise portion of casework to counter height of 36-inches if possible to allow for standard appliance heights. Sloped access panel is standard at all accessible sink locations.](#)
8. [LACTATION ROOMS](#) shall have an accessible sink and countertop. Where possible, raise portion of casework to 36" standard counter height to allow for standard under-counter refrigerator. Review casework layout with WUSM Project Manager for approval.
9. [Underlavatory guards shall be installed at supply and drain assemblies intended for use at accessible wall mounted lavatories.](#)
10. [Provide baby changing stations in all multi-stall public restrooms \(Men's and Women's\) and single accommodation rest rooms in public areas.](#)
11. [Private toilets shall be designed to be ADA compliant with the exception of the installation of grab bars at the toilet. Provide blocking in walls for future grab bar installation. All other fixtures and accessories to be compliant.](#)

12. Provide a 5-foot turning radius in front of all vending areas.
13. Install coat hooks on private office doors at 5'-0" AFF. A second hook will be installed within ADA reach range as required in the future.
14. All **SIGNAGE** to be high contrast. **ELEVATOR** push buttons to have white background with black numbers.
15. Provide color contrast at top and bottom tread of each stair. Avoid stair nosings that are trip hazards. Review stair materials with WUSM Project Manager.
16. Maintain level transitions between flooring materials where possible. Use metal trim (Schluter or approved equal) at the edge of scheduled flooring with tapered fill for a smooth transition at all material transitions. Solid vinyl transitions or reducers shall be installed by exception only.
17. Provide Areas of Refuge (Fire) as required by code. Each area of refuge will be equipped with a two-way communication system, appropriate signage, and meet space requirements spelled out within the building code for accessibility.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

1. In addition to complying with the Accessibility sections of the Building Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), designers should keep in mind the seven principles of Universal Design from the start of the project. Universal Design is defined as the design and composition of an environment so that it may be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest possible extent in the most independent and natural manner possible in the widest possible range of situations, without the need for adaptation, modification, assistive devices or specialized solutions, by any persons of any age or size or having any particular physical, sensory, mental health, or intellectual ability or disability.
2. The seven principles are as follows:
 - a. Equitable Use: The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
 - Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible; equivalent when not.
 - Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
 - Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users. See **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – AREA OF REFUGE (FIRE & TORNADO)** sections for specific requirements in the WUSM Standards related to this principle.
 - Make the design appealing to all users.
 - b. Flexibility in Use: The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities. See **SPECIALTIES – TOILET ROOM ACCESSORIES** section for specific requirements on wall mirrors in the WUSM Standards related to this principle.
 - Provide choice in methods of use.
 - Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.
 - Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.

- Provide adaptability to the user's pace.
- c. Simple and Intuitive Use: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level. See [SPECIALTIES - SIGNAGE](#) section for specific requirements in the WUSM Standards related to this principle.
 - Eliminate unnecessary complexity.
 - Be consistent with user expectations and intuition.
 - Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
 - Arrange information consistent with its importance.
 - Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion.
- d. Perceptible Information: The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities. See [SPECIALTIES - SIGNAGE](#) section for specific requirements in the WUSM Standards related to this principle.
 - Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
 - Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings.
 - Maximize "legibility" of essential information.
 - Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e. make it easy to give instructions or directions).
 - Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.
- e. Tolerance for Error: The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions. See [FINISHES](#) section for specific requirements related to flooring transitions in the WUSM Standards related to this principle. See [ACCESSIBILITY](#) Design Guidelines for specific requirements on color contrast at top and bottom tread of each stair.
 - Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolate, or shielded.
 - Provide warnings of hazards and errors.
 - Provide fail safe features.
 - Discourage unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.
- f. Low Physical Effort: The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
 - Allow user to maintain a neutral body position.
 - Use reasonable operating forces.
 - Minimize repetitive actions.
 - Minimize sustained physical effort.
- g. Size and Space for Approach and Use: Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.
 - Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user.

- Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user.
- Accommodate variations in hand and grip size.
- Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance.